

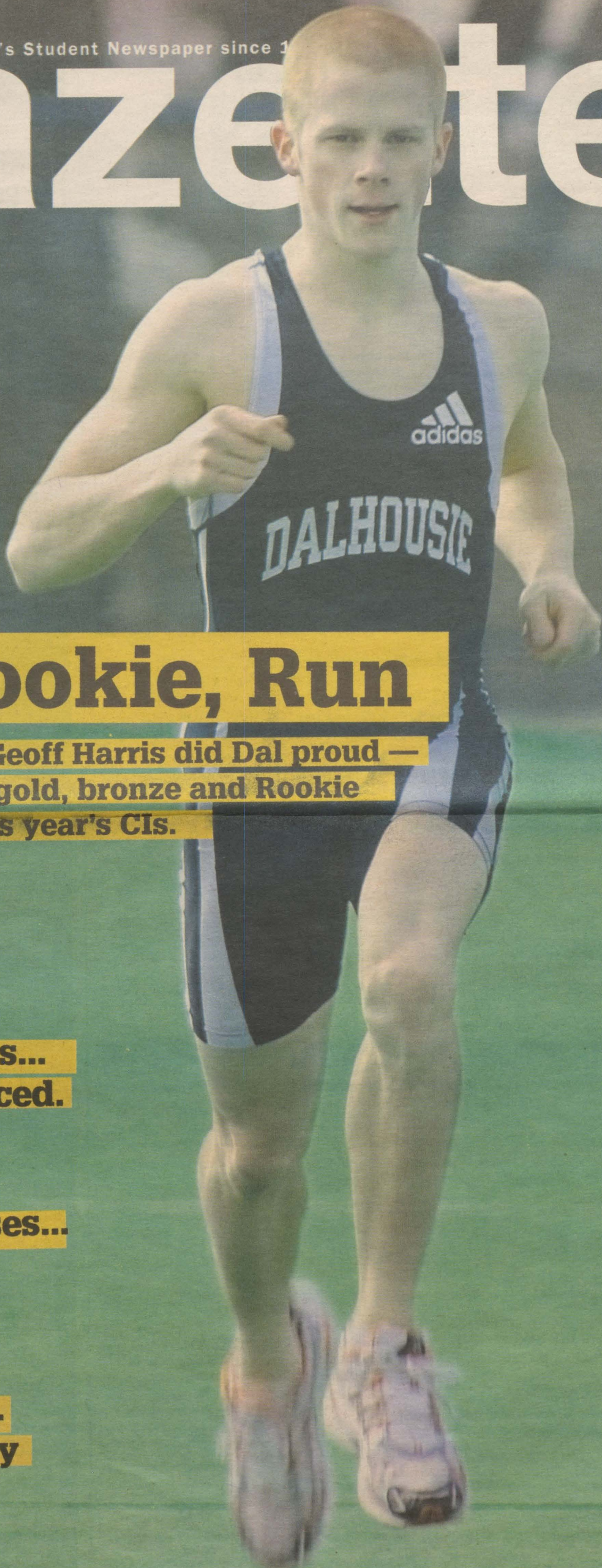
FREE

March 23rd to March 30th, 2006

ISSUE 138-24

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1911

Gazette



Run, Rookie, Run

First year student Geoff Harris did Dal proud — bringing back the gold, bronze and Rookie of the Year from this year's CIs.

Also

**Family matters...
if you're divorced.**

Pages 13 & 17

**Two hour classes...
not enough?**

Page 8

**Dal brain doc...
helps the needy**

Page 5



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Relay for Life:

Some Dalhousie students have been busy starting to organize the 2006 Halifax Relay for Life. The Relay for Life is the annual signature event of the Canadian Cancer Society and will be taking place from coast to coast during the month of June. In Halifax the relay will be held on Citadel Hill on June 9th. If you are interested in entering a team, contact Lori Doucette at lorigoucette@hotmail.com or Craig Isles at rftmaster21@hotmail.com. If you want to help volunteer, or wish to purchase Luninaries please contact Sujani Jayanetti at sjayanet@dal.ca. There will also be a table in the lobby of the SUB near the end of the month. For more info on the event check out the Canadian Cancer Societies website, www.cancer.ca.

Council Positions Available:

The DSU will be hiring for a number of position in the coming weeks. If you are interested in the position of VP Finance and Operations, Council Chair, Council Secretary, or member at large, please submit a cover letter and resume in room 222 of the SUB, to the attention of VP Student Life by Wednesday March 29th at 4:00 pm. For details on these positions please contact dsvvpsl@dal.ca or checkout the DSU Consitution which is available online at www.dsu.ca or in hard copy from the DSU offices, room 222.

DSU Student Rights and Responsibilities Guide:

For the past year, the VP Education Jen Bond and the Academic and External Committee, have been working on a Student Rights and Responsibilities Guide. This guide is meant to be a tool for students to navigate their way through the University Calendar and all those little pamphlets you get at the beginning of the year. A draft version of the guide is currently available on our website for comments. Please send any comments to dsvvped@dal.ca.

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be on March 29th at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers, on the second floor of the SUB. All are welcome.

Faces of Dal Campaign: for more info visit www.dsu.ca

Is Affirmative Action Really Necessary?

Monday, March 27th, 3pm in SUB 303. Presented by the Dalhousie Aboriginal Law Student Association & the Dalhousie Native Students Association. Candy Palmater, Mi'kmaq Liaison with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, Michelle Williams, Director of the Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq Initiative at Dalhousie Law School, and Bonnie Best-Flemming, Employment Equity Officer for Dalhousie University will discuss many issues pertaining to diversity in education and the workplace.

Perspectives IV - A Lecture Series on Diversity and Sexuality

Wednesday March 29th, 7pm in SUB 303. Presented by DalOUT. YGA Magazine Publisher, author and youth activist Benjie Nycum will reflect upon his work for an LGBT publication, and present a vision for the future of the LGBT community.

See you around campus, stop by, or call anytime,
Ezra Edelstein
DSU President
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dsvvpsl@dal.ca
my.dsu.ca / www.dsu.ca



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Three years in, the invasion of Iraq still divides

CHRIS LAROCHE
Editor-in-Chief

This past Sunday marked the three-year anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

At the time this article went to print, the invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq has gone on for 1099 days, claiming the lives of some 2,525 coalition personnel, 500 Western civilians and anywhere between 8,000 and over 100,000 Iraqi civilians.

Using a conservative estimate, the war in Iraq has killed an average of 10 people a day — though the number is likely at least three times higher.

Estimates of the financial costs of the Iraq war based on Congressional appropriations accounts put the number as high as \$249 billion US. According to the Borgen Project, a poverty reduction NGO, global poverty could be reduced by half within a decade if only \$19 billion — about 10 per cent — was diverted to development assistance each year.

Comparatively, the cost of the Iraq War is equivalent to nearly a quarter of Canada's annual gross domestic product, the same portion of the GDP of the entire African continent, or about thirty-two times larger than Alberta's projected \$7.8-billion surplus for 2005/2006 fiscal year.

Even three years out, the occupation of Iraq doesn't seem to have an end in sight. Any realistic discussion of a U.S.-planned "Exit Strategy" has become so far-fetched that the term is regularly used in the punchlines of even the least-political *Daily Show* jokes and *Saturday Night Live* skits. Instead, talk of a looming civil war has seeped into the mainstream American political dialogue.

And, as it was on the eve of March 19, 2003, opinion about the war is still sharply divided.

Sunday's anniversary saw Halifax's downtown streets filled with hundreds of protesters taking part in the International Day of Action, organized by the Halifax Peace Coalition. The message was simple: war is bad and, by extension, the Iraq War is bad. As casualties mount, human rights scandals such as Abu Ghraib are uncovered and costs increase; this is a message that is slowly gaining a wider appeal.

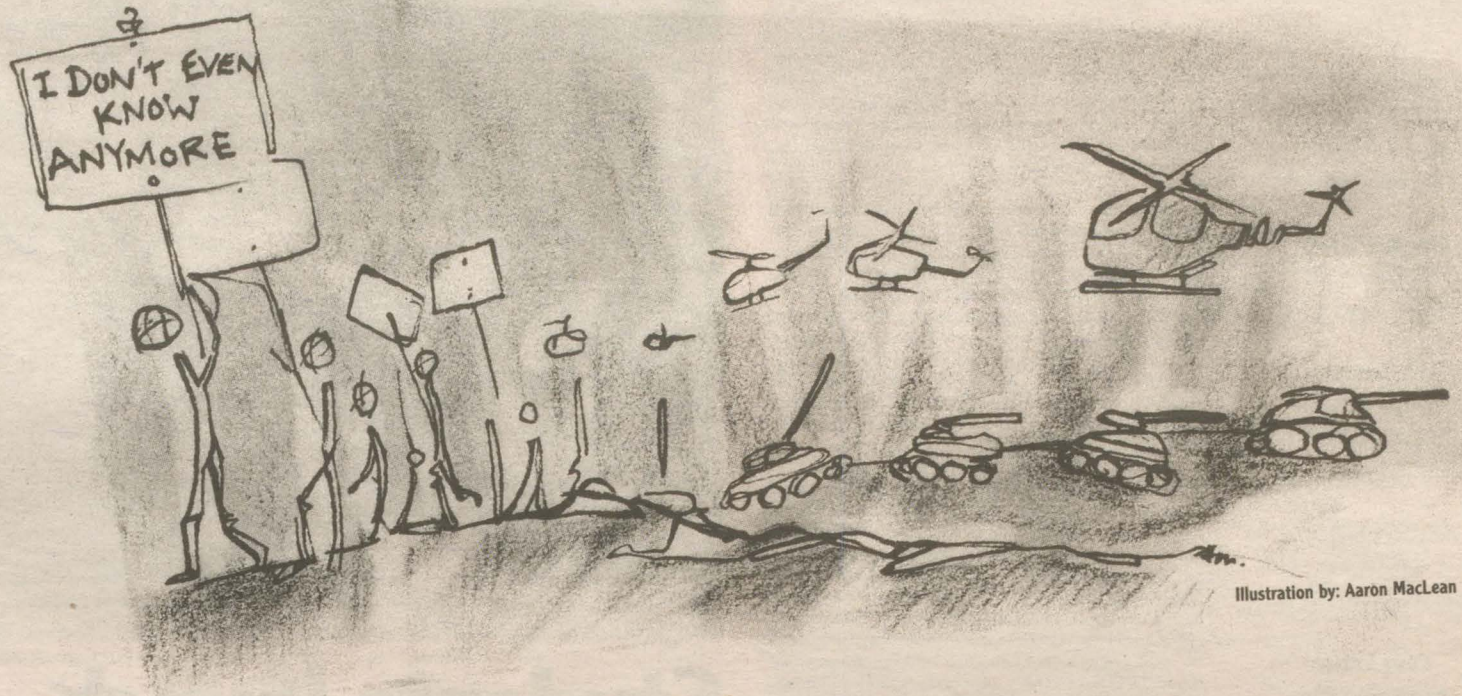


Illustration by: Aaron MacLean

Last month, I had the opportunity to follow Canadian journalist, publisher and author Scott Taylor around for an afternoon while he drove from one media outlet to the next, giving interviews and talks on Canadian foreign policy in Afghanistan, his experiences in Iraq, and American foreign policy on the whole.

Taylor looks and talks the part he is often assigned by the media: an opinioned, frank-speaking journalist who is as comfortable on the ground as he is behind a keyboard.

And he is a man with a story to tell — one question can field a litany of anecdotes, facts, figures, and opinions, all spilling out of him in a waterfall of polemic and exposition.

Taylor's expert opinion on the War in Iraq — filtered through 25 visits to the country, one five-day kidnap experience, and a recent sortie as an advisor to the U.S. military on Turkmen uprisings in Iraq's northernmost provinces — are much more nuanced than those displayed on placards and signs at the protest.

But Taylor's message is not all that dissimilar: Iraq is a mess that shouldn't have been started, and doesn't appear to have any solutions

now that it has.

"Iraq displayed the fact that the American military is finite," he says. "But you can't destroy a country and then leave."

Taylor believes that the U.S. is in for the long haul whether it likes it or not — even if Iraq is on the verge of worsening into a "regional debacle" — in other words, a civil war.

But not everyone is dead-set against the Iraqi conflict. A poll conducted by the University of Maryland's Programme on International Policy Attitudes last month found that nearly a third of all Americans are still confident that the U.S. will succeed in achieving its goals in Iraq.

Hassan Hadad, an Iraqi-born Canadian and the President of Dal's Undergraduate Political Science Society, also believes the war was justified. Hadad fled to Canada with his parents at an early age, persecuted for being a Shiite Muslim in his birthplace of Baghdad.

"We consider ourselves very lucky," Hadad says, noting that his father lost close relatives under the Hussein regime.

Hadad remembers the day the war began — and recalls it being bittersweet.

“My basic feeling was that finally, it's taking place, it's going to be over with soon, and we'll see some justice after decades of death, torture and exile.”

"I knew that the war was against the regime, and not the people, so symbolic institutions would be targeted, not civilians," he says. "But war is not precise, and I have a lot of family in Iraq. I feared for them during the time of the intervention, but I had always feared for them much more under Saddam Hussein, when people were picked off the streets at random by the secret police, and families disturbed in the middle of the night or arbitrary arrest and detention.

"My basic feeling was that finally, it's taking place, it's going to be over with soon, and we'll see some justice after decades of death, torture and exile."

Hadad also believes that Iraq is heading toward calmer waters, despite setbacks like Abu Ghraib and the ongoing insurgency.

"The war did accomplish something significant: the removal of Saddam Hussein — that's a positive

step," he says. "Now, all parties are working towards democracy, and that's an even better step."

Although those who agree with Hadad's perspective hold a minority opinion, they have a point: Iraq has already been invaded, demolished and overrun.

The only good that can come of the Iraq War — the only good that can come of any war — is the process of reconstruction that must now take place. And no matter what American interest in Iraq actually are — more oil contracts, a stronger military presence in the Middle East, or the establishment a staging ground for a future invasion of Iran — Iraqi reconstruction cannot take place under *any condition* if the American-led coalition leaves without a properly-mandated, properly-equipped international force to take its place.

Even the most conservative estimates cannot distort this fact.



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Visit www.dal.ca/sec for complete details on these and other positions.

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Employer Events

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March 27th, 2:00-5:00pm
SUB, Room 224

Canadian Armed Forces
Info Booth
March 27, 10:00-2:00pm
SUB, Main Lobby



Gazette
Elections!

Elections for next year's editorial positions
5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 30th Dal SUB Room 312.

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Gazette

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THE FINE PRINT

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the new year. Our offices are officially closed from Thursday December 1st 2005 until the first week of 2006. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

Gazette: News

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All of Julian Hermida's classes are filled to capacity with longer waitlists than he can accommodate and he's had to ask for larger rooms to fit all of his students. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Students launch petition to keep prof at Dal

LINDSEY HEPBURN
Staff Contributor

Roughly 100 Dalhousie students are calling on the sociology department to reconsider its decision to close its doors on a popular professor at the end of the term.

Julian Hermida, who teaches social sciences classes on law and society, says sociology chair Chris Murphy told him in December 2005 that the department wouldn't renew his contract. Murphy is currently on sabbatical and unavailable for comment.

"I wasn't surprised," says Hermida. "They made it clear it was a 10-month contract and nothing [was] guaranteed."

But two of Hermida's students, Samantha Sonshine and Carly Fidler, started circulating a petition to keep the prof at the university.

The petition says the professor is "essential" to Dal, and that the support he lends to students in academic and extracurricular activities far surpasses his responsibilities as a professor.

"We believe that with his departure the study of criminology/sociology of law will decline at Dalhousie," the students wrote. Sociology of law classes are in high demand at Dal and according to the petition, the loss of Hermida would further limit the availability of these classes, hindering students' education.

"Everyone thinks he's great," says Sonshine. "What we're trying to say isn't just that his classes are popular, but necessary."

Fourth-year international development student Anna Negrin says it took her three semesters to get into one of Hermida's classes because they're so popular. All of his classes are filled to capacity with longer waitlists than he can accommodate and he's had to ask for larger rooms to fit all of his students.

"He finds a way to connect with everyone in the class," says Negrin, who signed the petition. "He's fully committed to students. Any problems, academic or not, you can talk to him."

Hermida says that although he hasn't seen the petition, he's flattered by the students' concern.

"I have a passion for students, they have taught me to be a better person," he says.

While he's done a lot of research — he's authored two books and published 30 articles — he says he loves teaching the most.

How it works

Professors on a class-by-class contract:

- Falls under the CUPE agreement that also covers TAs
- Teach one or two classes per term
- Often teach specialty classes that allow the university to bring in professionals in specific fields

Sessional professors:

- Covered by the Dalhousie Faculty Association collective agreement
- Hired full-time for either one term or on a multi-year contract
- Under DFA rules, can be hired for four consecutive years before being granted tenure or leaving
- Fill in particular needs
- Usually hired for teaching skills, not for research or administrative purposes
- Contract designed to meet short-term needs of faculty

Tenured professors:

- Hired for teaching, research and administration
- Need doctorate or equivalent degree
- Chosen through an elaborate hiring procedure
- Has to be a need within the faculty for the professor

"To me, it's a privilege," he says. "I wouldn't change anything."

Hermida says the department told him his sessional contract wouldn't be renewed due to a projected decline in student enrolment and a budget deficit.

Sessional contracts at Dal are usually 10-month positions that can be renewed a maximum of four times.

If professors aren't granted tenure after four contract renewals, they can no longer work at the university, under the Dalhousie Faculty Association's regulations.

But Hermida says he doesn't see how a drop in enrolment would affect his classes, which are all currently full.

"I don't think sessionals contribute to decreasing enrolment," he says. "Some sessionals increase enrolment. I would start looking at it in terms of student attraction."

The dean of the faculty of arts and social sciences, Marian Binkley, won't comment on Hermida's case but says students may be unaware of the complexities of the hiring process for professors.

"Individuals are hired for contractually set issues," she says. "Everybody that we hire on a short-term basis cannot be ultimately hired full-time."

Hermida's contract has been renewed twice.

Acting chair of the sociology department, Richard Apostle, says he can't comment on individual cases. But he says students have a big im-

pact on what professors are hired, especially for tenured positions.

"We have a very democratic structure," he says. "These decisions are usually taken by a committee and decisions are made mostly based on consensus."

Apostle says the department will make an effort to continue offering the classes Hermida currently teaches.

University president Tom Traves says that a professor's popularity with students doesn't necessarily mean he/she will be hired back. He says he hadn't heard about the petition to keep Hermida at Dal.

"Students can participate in the process but only up to a point," says Traves. "They have limited expertise and knowledge to contribute to the decision."

Traves says the university hires professors not only as teachers, but also as researchers.

"Most undergraduate students wouldn't have any perceptions of the person's ability in that regard," he says. "It wouldn't be sensible to base your decisions on the basis of fundamentally who is popular."

A petition adds valuable input but students need to realize they don't have a full understanding of other aspects of the hiring process, says Traves.

"All you can do is make your input and hope that somebody pays attention to it in the appropriate fashion," he says. "It is relevant information but it's not sufficient in and of itself."

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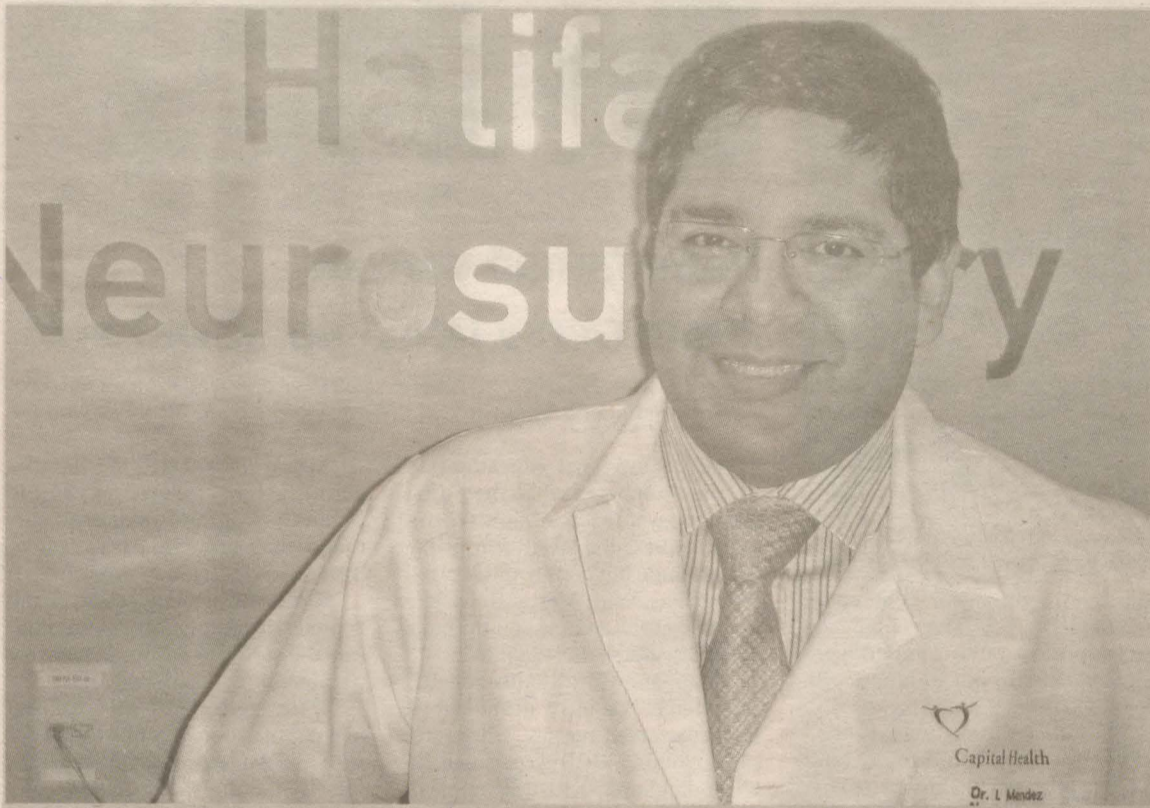
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DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster, see page 19



Dal professor Ivar Mendez pioneered the use of robotics in neurosurgery. He has a school breakfast program that feeds roughly 1,000 children in the Andes on a daily basis, and is an accomplished photographer and bronze sculptor. / Photo: Dawn MacPhee

The art of brain repair

Researcher Ivar Mendez helps people walk away from brain damage

DAWN MACPHEE
Staff Contributor

Surgeon, humanitarian and sculptor Ivar Mendez is enthralled with the brain. A world-renowned expert on the use of stem cells to treat and repair brain disorders and spinal cord injuries, Mendez works to improve the lives of people facing severe injuries and debilitating diseases.

"I am fascinated by an organ that allows you to imagine something that was non-existent, or have a concept of God, or a concept of self sacrifice, or of love," says Mendez. "It's all in the brain."

Mendez is a professor and head of the division of neurosurgery at Dalhousie and the QE II Health Sciences Centre. He's also chair of the Brain Repair Centre — Canada's only cell restoration laboratory, and one of only four in the world.

With his gentle manner and easy smile, Mendez has a natural bedside manner described by one patient as "top of the pile."

Joann Tusia, the director of major gifts and donations for the Brain Repair Centre, has worked with Mendez for nearly eight years and says he deals well with people on all levels.

"I think that has taken him very far in life," she says.

Mendez received his MD, as well as a PhD in anatomy, from the University of Western Ontario, where he also completed post-graduate training in neurosurgery.

"I wanted a profession that could actually influence people and at the same time be portable," he says. "Taking care of people, and taking care of their health, is something you can do anywhere in the world with any people."

Mendez performs life-altering surgeries on patients suffering from movement disorders such as Huntington's and Parkinson's disease. These diseases impair coordination and produce shaking and involuntary movements.

Using a procedure called "deep brain stimulation," Mendez reduces the disability caused by the disorders. During the operation, Mendez places electrodes in the brain and a small computer in the chest. The computer delivers continuous impulses to the electrodes, which virtually stop all involuntary movements.

Mendez says seeing patients after surgery, especially in cases involving children, is deeply satisfying. He says he works with children whose conditions are so severe that they can't walk or eat by themselves.

"And then they can go back and lead a normal life," says Mendez. "This is unbelievably rewarding."

Mendez also pioneered the use of robotics in neurosurgery, performing the world's first long-distance telerobotics neurosurgery in 2002.

Telerobotics lets experts communicate in real time with surgeons performing operations in smaller centres. It provides an alternative to transporting patients long distances from their homes to urban areas where specialized health care is available.

He and his team helped used robotic technology and telecommunications to assist with a complex brain operation in Saint John, N.B. — about 400 kilometres away, says Mendez.

Born in Bolivia, Mendez maintains an attachment to his birthplace through his artwork in bronze sculpture, which depicts the indigenous people of the Andes. He's also an accomplished photographer and is currently working on a book of photographs of the Andes.

Mendez says art and medicine not only connect with each other, but are synergistic.

"Especially in neurosurgery, where situations of life-and-death are always at hand, and some of the injuries of the brain are so severe that not only can [they] kill you, but can render you incapable," says Mendez, whose artwork is in-

spired by situations he encounters at work. "Imagine not being able to understand, so you're perfect in every other way but you cannot understand. It's just terrible."

Mendez is also a driving force behind a number of humanitarian projects in the Andes. He has a school breakfast program that feeds roughly 1,000 children daily. He says it costs \$35 to feed a child in the Andes for a year. This small amount of money can make a huge difference in children's lives, in terms of their ability to learn and be productive members of society, he says.

"These are communities that are very isolated, where people have no access at all to medical or dental care," says Mendez. Roughly 98 per cent of the population lives in poverty and children don't get the calories that they need to spend in a day, he says.

These grass roots programs are a personal undertaking for Mendez, implemented without government participation.

At the Brain Repair Centre, Mendez and his team are researching a new approach to surgery that uses new cells to restore the circuitry of the brain damaged by injury or disease. Their goal is to bring about normal neurological function by repairing the structure of the brain or spinal cord.

"To think that you can put a new cell in the brain, and that cell could connect and specifically talk to the appropriate cell out of millions of choices is an incredible thing, and that's exactly what has happened," says Mendez.

Mendez says he aspires to help people who have suffered strokes to speak again, and people crippled by spinal-cord injuries to walk again, all by repairing the circuitry of the brain.

"That is really the dream and the goal for this research: to truly be able to restore function in people who have been affected like that," he says. "That's really what I'd like to pursue, and one day accomplish."

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Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

Local groups protest Iraq war, Canadian role in Haiti and Afghanistan

KALEY KENNEDY
Staff Contributor

Hundreds of protesters gathered in the streets of downtown Halifax on March 18 to mark the third anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

"More important than the quantity of marchers is the quality of the demonstration," said Mahmood Hussain, a member of the Student Coalition Against War (SCAW) and Dal student. "In that regards, today's event met or even surpassed our hopes."

Members of SCAW, the Halifax Peace Coalition (HPC) and the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) organized the march. The protesters, led by a large George Bush puppet, travelled from the farmer's market on Lower Water Street to Victoria Park.

"When we were walking, there was so much energy," said Jean Steinburg, a University of King's College student. But she said the energy level of the crowd reduced once the protesters reached the park.

There, socially conscious hip-hop group the IMF performed along with world-renowned musician and filmmaker Michael Franti, who was in town for a film screening. Franti, who sang four songs, spoke of his recent visits to Iraq, Israel and the West Bank. The crowd renewed some of its enthusiasm when he took the stage, said Steinburg.

Food Not Bombs, the group that hands out free vegan meals in front of the Killam Library at Dal, provided food during the event.

In her opening remarks, MC Ardath Whynacht told the crowd that the protest was not only against the Iraq war, but also Canada's role in Afghanistan, Haiti and Israel and local violence.

"There are so many issues, like the petition to campaign for control of small arms," said Whynacht, an NSPIRG volunteer. "These kinds of grassroots projects may take 10



Activist groups say that since the invasion of Iraq three years ago, people's level of mobilization and awareness of a myriad of international concerns has increased. / Photo: Jan Meyerowitz

years to affect change, but we've seen them do it."

Activist groups said that since the Iraq war began three years ago, people's level of mobilization and awareness of a myriad of international concerns has increased.

"We average two public events a month," said HPC member Carolyn van Gorp. "We do a lot more of lower level education and lobbying."

SCAW releases pamphlets to educate the public about issues such as the detention of suspects allegedly linked to terrorist activity in Guantanamo Bay, and Canada's role in Afghanistan and Haiti.

"A fundamental concept of SCAW is reporting the unreported," said Hussain.

Dal's Palestinian Solidarity Society (PSS) also tries to educate the public by hosting speeches, debates, film screenings, and handing out educational material. At Saturday's march, PSS members carried wooden frames draped with Palestinian flags to represent the coffins of Palestinians who have died in conflicts with Israelis. The display also included a child-size coffin.

"It is all about awareness," said Lana Qadoumi, who spoke about

the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on behalf of the PSS. "The people here are supporters, but it is important to get the message out to others who are not here."

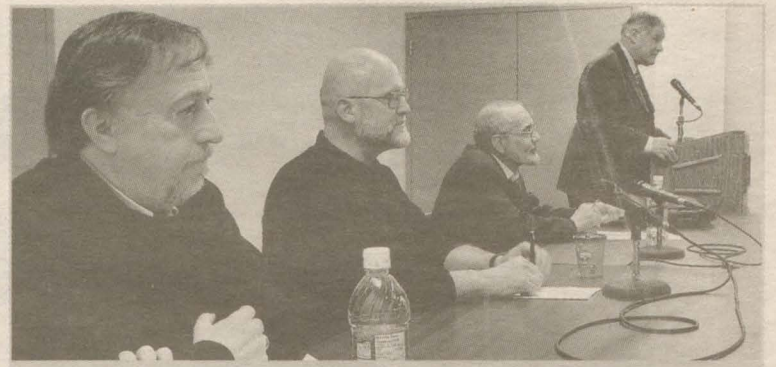
The fourth-year management student plans to return to the Middle East once she has completed her degree. She said the contacts she's made in Canada will help her give people hope by showing them there is a movement outside of their community.

van Gorp said the networking that took place during the march was valuable.

"What was great about this action was it was organized by a coalition of groups and we're anticipating a strong ongoing coalition continuing in the future," she said, adding that she was happy with the student turnout during the march.

Hussain, however, said the student population in Halifax has greater potential for action.

"While there are a variety of active student groups that take part in evoking justice, an empowered group like Halifax's student population does injustice by taking its position for granted or not exploiting its liberty to the fullest."



Journalism professor Stephen Kimber (L) says newspapers shouldn't compromise their freedom of speech to avoid offending readers. / Photo: John Packman

Muhammad cartoon controversy heats up at Dal SUB

JOHN PACKMAN
Staff Contributor

The controversial caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that were first printed in a Danish newspaper express the West's fear of the Islamic faith, but don't inspire hatred of Muslims, Saint Mary's University professor Peter March said during a panel discussion on March 14.

"[Muhammad] looks like a sheik," said March. "He has a neat beard, a perfectly folded turban, a beautiful set of clothing. He is respectable, he is standing straight, his eyes are clear. The humour, of course, is ... there is a little stick of dynamite sticking out of his turban."

March spoke directly to Muslim audience members who gathered in the SUB just over a month after he posted a sample of the Muhammad cartoons on his office door.

The panel discussion, which involved SMU professor Jamal Badawi and King's College professor Stephen Kimber, was organized by the Dalhousie International Students Association and the DSU diversity council as part of the Faces of Dalhousie Campaign.

Moderator Rick Grant asked the audience to be as "courteous as possible," but some members clearly showed their preferred statements by clapping and booing. A few yelled in protest when March criticized the Islamic holy book.

"The Qur'an is full of violence, it is full of anger," said March. "It is

full of recommendation for religious wars and reward for those who die in them."

March warned that Muslim violence, such as the reactions to the publication of the Muhammad cartoons, may turn the West's fear of the Islamic faith into hatred.

But Badawi, the director of the Islamic Information Foundation, said the cartoons are responsible for perpetuating such hatred.

"The stereotypes that we see in these cartoons seem to connect with the widespread and increasing Islamophobia," said Badawi, comparing the cartoons to those of Nazi-Germany.

Badawi said freedom of speech has limits and that the cartoons shouldn't have been published.

Kimber, a journalism professor, said that while it's necessary for newspapers to refrain from printing libelous material, freedom of speech shouldn't be compromised to avoid offending a number of their readers.

March agreed. "Freedom of speech cannot be modified by a restriction with respect to insult," said March. "The insult is a question perceived by the listener. The freedom is the freedom of the speaker."

Although the panelists agreed on a few points during their discussion, they came to no consensus about the scope of the freedom of speech, or whether March was wrong to post the cartoons on his office door.

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My Dad bought this when I started at Dal. I lived with two roommates in the upstairs apt. and three other students lived in the downstairs apt. My last semester starts in the fall-This year everybody is moving out at the end of April. If you (or your parents!) want to buy this great student house before repainting and other cosmetic stuff happens - send me an email.

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FROM THE GAZETTE ARCHIVES

25 years ago this week...

- Dalhousie students were surprised to discover that they had elected a "joke slate" for president and vice-president of the DSU. Jim and John Logan had promised to rename the positions "His Excellency" and "Chief Lackey," to remedy the drug problem at Dal and to improve CKDU by eliminating student fee contributions and turning it into a CB channel.

Other suggestions included eliminating the senior librarian staff from the Kellogg Library to provide medical students with "fresh cadavers weekly," relocating council chambers to the Grawood, and reshaping "cumbersome" Dalhousie degrees to a convenient wallet-size. The team also wanted to replace student union staff with trained monkeys from the Tupper building medical lab.

The Logans attributed their win to student boredom with the conventional issues and candidates, saying voters were looking for a fresh perspective. They promised they would break all of their campaign promises and "sincerely attempt to represent [student] interests."

- In other election news, chief returning officer Umesh Jain reported that one or two polling stations had been subjected to ballot stuffing. But the irregularity didn't affect election results because the ballots were easily recognizable, being in one big bundle.

CKDU lost its referendum question to switch to FM radio from its AM band position, with nearly two-thirds of students rejecting the proposal.

Thirty-seven per cent of eligible students voted in the election.

- Over 4,000 protesters demonstrated outside parliament during U.S. President Ronald Reagan's visit to Ottawa, when he met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.



Shouting slogans such as "Yankee go home" and "U.S. imperialism out of Canada," protestors called for an end to U.S. intervention in El Salvador and acid rain pollution.

- In its "A Peak at the Past" feature, *The Gazette* looked back at its Nov. 7, 1962, issue when the paper printed a story about a second-year Cornell University student who was expelled for living with a woman in his apartment. The faculty committee made its decision in under an hour, calling the student's actions "conduct unbecoming a gentleman." The student thanked the school for its concern for his moral and spiritual welfare.

10 years ago this week ...

- Tuition was going up this week in 1996 to cover a budget shortfall at the university. Arts students were to see a 12 per cent fee increase while

science students would get hit with a hike of nearly 10 per cent. DSU president David Cox objected that arts students were being charged more when other programs cost considerably more to run. Senate member Joan Crawford defended the hikes, saying they were necessary because departmental budgets couldn't be cut any deeper.

- Students at the University of Alberta were upset that their school planned to give an honorary law degree to Premier Ralph Klein. University administrators were flooded with hundreds of calls and letters of protest from students and alumni after they offered the degree. Klein, who never completed high school, had cut \$200 million in post-secondary funding earlier that year. School officials said they were trying to recognize Klein's role in reducing the province's deficit and his community service.

UNI BRIEFS

DAL BRIEFS

Former prof aims to steer grieving Grits

A former Dalhousie professor and University of King's College president says he will put his name in for the federal Liberal leadership bid.

John Godfrey, who taught history at Dal from 1970 to 1987, joins Toronto lawyer Martha Hall Findlay as the only confirmed candidates for the top job of the wounded Liberal Party.

The Toronto native has represented the riding of Don Valley West since he was first elected in 1993. He holds three degrees from three different universities and was the editor of the *Financial Post*.

The Grit's leadership race officially opens on April 7, and the final vote is scheduled for early December.

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Profs strike at UPEI

Faculty members at the University of Prince Edward Island walked off the job on March 21 after talks between their union and the school's administration broke down.

The union (UPEIFA), representing 375 faculty, librarians, and other teaching instructors, began strike preparations after its members voted 84 per cent in favour of job action on March 14.

Negotiations between UPEIFA and the university administration began last April, but are stumbling over the key issues of teaching load and wage parity with other maritime universities. The contract ex-

pired in June.

The UPEI student union, representing the school's 4,000-plus students, has taken a neutral position in the dispute. Student leaders say their colleagues are concerned with missing class time or losing their semester, especially those who are graduating this spring.

UPEI officials say it's unlikely students will lose the semester, pointing out that no Canadian university has ever lost a school term because of a strike.

Ontario schools now subject to FOI Act

Universities in Ontario will soon be forced to respond to Freedom of Information requests, from which they had previously been exempt.

The FOI Act gives citizens access to most forms of information held by public and publicly funded institutions, but, hospitals and universities were exempt from the Ontario act, drafted in 1988.

Supporters say the move will make schools more fair and transparent and will allow the public to be better informed about how its post-secondary institutions work.

Nova Scotia universities are subject to this province's FOI Act, except when releasing personal information to third parties.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Half-million French protest youth job law

At least half a million protestors marched in over 150 cities throughout France on March 18 in support of student opposition to a new job

law that allows employers to more easily fire young people.

The law, set to come into effect in April, would allow employers to fire workers under the age of 26 without justification during the first two years of their employment, a move that the government says will help France's chronic unemployment problem.

Opponents, however, who have dubbed the law the "Kleenex contract" because youth could be discarded by employers like tissues, say it will only make the situation worse.

France has one of Europe's highest unemployment rates at 10 per cent, a figure that rises to 23 per cent for people 26 and under.

The weekend's protests capped a week of escalating demonstrations, which have closed over half of France's 84 public universities. Rioters clashed with police in cities throughout the country, but most demonstrations were peaceful, usually with a "party spirit," reported *The Times*.

Public figures supporting the protests included the Communist and Socialist party leaders, a former culture minister, and the mayor of Paris. Bernard Thibault, leader of the large left-wing union CGT, suggested a country-wide general strike could happen if the law was not repealed.

Sources: *The Eyeopener*, *The Ryersonian*, *Wikipedia*, *The New York Times*, *The Times Online*, *CBC.ca*, *The Guardian*.

Municipal Internship Position

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR), in partnership with the Association of Municipal Administrators (AMA) is extending the Nova Scotia Municipal Internship Program for 2006. Interns will be exposed to a variety of different aspects of managing a municipality and will be personally mentored, and coached by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or the senior administrative officer, and supervised by the senior management team of the host municipality.

Duties

This 12-month intern position provides an opportunity to work with the CAO and various municipal departments to learn about municipal governance, management and service delivery. The intern and host municipality will work collaboratively to determine the most effective method of completing the prepared workplan. In addition to learning the key functions of municipal government, the intern will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills by observing, experiencing and practicing their skills throughout the duration of the internship. The intern may be involved in identifying the roles and responsibilities of council and administration; assisting with the preparation of operating and capital budgets; drafting bylaws; preparing the agenda for the regular council/committee meetings; interacting with department heads; interacting with various boards and committees; handling public and research inquiries; and, researching policy issues. Some travel within the province will be required.

Qualifications

A recently completed post-secondary degree or diploma in a related discipline; A desire to experience and learn the functions of a municipality; work or volunteer experience that may be related to the skills required in municipal administration; willingness to relocate to a host municipality, if necessary; and work, character, educational, or volunteer related references. The successful candidate will have: demonstrated experience in working with community groups or involvement with volunteer community organizations; some basic knowledge about local government; and an interest in pursuing a career in municipal administration. The successful candidate will also possess a desire to influence public policy and community development through public service; problem solving ability; and develop positive public relations skills.

Host Municipalities

To be announced April 05, 2006. Check www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/internships/ on or after April 5 to find out which two municipalities will be hosting internship positions.

Salary Range: \$30,000 to \$35,000

Closing Date: April 30, 2006

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Service Nova Scotia
and Municipal Relations
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or fax (902)424-0821

Contact: grantdk@gov.ns.ca



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and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

The views of the Editorial Board are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

Gazette
Elections!

Gazette
Elections!

Elections for next year's editorial positions

5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 30th Dal SUB Room 312.



If you're high, you can't drive.

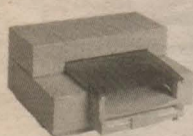


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Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

Letters: letters@dalgazette.ca

VENT: USING WIRELESS INTERNET

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

While owning a laptop for the past three months has made my life as a student infinitely easier and more convenient, the unreliability of wireless Internet connections sometimes makes me want to pitch my laptop out the window!

I live a block from campus, so my VPN connection to Dal is understandably unreliable, forcing me to use unsecured wireless networks

such as "South," "Walt Music," or "default." Using these networks is annoying because I constantly have to connect and reconnect, as my signal oscillates from "very low" to "very good."

But what really takes the cake is the unreliability of wireless networks here on campus! After unpacking all my stuff in the study room on the second floor of the Killam last Sun-

day, my attempts at doing some schoolwork were frustrated by being unable to connect to VPN!

Moving to the stacks area still didn't do the trick, forcing me to relocate to the desks in the inner quadrangle of the library. As I'm writing this on my laptop in the SUB, I have just lost my VPN connection again.

Confound it, wireless Internet! In the battle of wits, you are winning.

Should Dalhousie reconsider two-hour class time tradition?

IAN BICKIS
Opinions Contributor

"Tradition, I suppose" was the response given by Robert Boardman, the chair of the political science department, when asked why Dalhousie University schedules classes that meet only two hours a week. Boardman speculated that, as two-hour classes are mostly seminars, the idea is that students do more independent research and meet in class less.

Many programs in the faculty of arts and social sciences opt for two-hour, once-a-week classes, while still giving three credit hours to the students enrolled. This includes the English, French, classics, history, philosophy and political science departments. Sociology is the one exception, possibly stemming from its roots within the science-based economics department.

Boardman's uncertainty on the subject is understandable. Two-hour classes have been in existence at Dalhousie for at least 40 years, and the issue doesn't appear to have been debated during this time.

The idea of independent learning seems plausible, since seminars are often reading intensive. But a brief look at Canada's top universities reveals that most offer three-hour classes. The top five schools as ranked by *Maclean's Magazine* — Queen's, McGill, UBC, Waterloo and U of T — all teach three-hour seminars. This begs the question of why Dalhousie, languishing further down the list, does not.

The plethora of two-hour classes, however, might at least prevent professors from short-changing their students. With just two hours a week of class time, professors might be less hesitant to let students out early, whereas many three-hour classes occasionally end early.

After questioning numerous people, it became clear to me that classes in the 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. time



The clock ticks down to the end of class.

slot rarely last the time allotted, because students often don't want to be in class that late. This has prompted some other schools to change the time slot to 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. But in any case, reduced class time is a reduction of time with the professor, and it's not right.

There is also the question of professors wanting to participate in conferences elsewhere, which forces them to cancel class. The amount of time professors are allowed to take off for these engagements is a "grey area," according to Lars Osberg, a professor in the economics department.

"There are some people who abuse the system, [which has] a lot of latitude," says Osberg, adding that discipline on issues relating to class hours happens at the departmental level, and some departments adopt a more "laissez-faire" attitude.

Student recourse is somewhat limited. Approaching the professor in question, or the head of the department, are both options. But no student wants to make enemies, especially when some departments are quite small and word gets around fast.

Teacher evaluations are probably the best way to deal with the issue of class times. Although some

students put no effort into these reviews, they play an important role in determining professorial promotions and awarding tenure.

Once tenure is awarded, discipline is mostly limited to "moral suasion," says Osberg. So it's crucial that students respect the evaluations. Adjunct professors who are known to reduce class time will not be promoted, or might be let go.

But to encourage professors to care about class time, students must also care. Complacency on either side allows for the gradual erosion in the quality, and the quantity, of education.

If knowledge is going to thrive at a university, both professors and students must dedicate long hours to research and writing, and there is no better way to do that than for professors to spend time in class with students, offering their insights and answering tough questions.

The challenges surrounding class time are numerous, and the issue is often lost in the murky realm of academic discipline.

Tradition is an integral part of any venerable institution. But perhaps it's time that Dalhousie parted with the two-hour tradition, and got with the times of other universities.

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A monstrous wound

Force alone will not solve the crisis in Afghanistan

SALAM NAHZAT
Opinions Contributor

A heated debate has developed around the current UN mission to Afghanistan — a debate that is rife with misconceptions about the nation's history and the nature of conflict there.

Before Afghanistan could recover from the three British wars ending in 1919, it was already burning in the flames of the Cold War. Before it could stand on its feet after knocking down the Soviet invasion of 1979, it had already become the bloodbath of two more wars: the civil war and the so-called war on terror.

In fact, Afghanistan has become a monstrous wound on the geopolitical landscape — and there is an urgent need for Afghanistan's stakeholders to reevaluate their strategies. Making Afghanistan a safe place is in the absolute interest of nation proper, Canada, and the world.

But is there truly a consensus regarding what strategy will achieve this?

Both violence and pacifism are bound to failure as they are the two ends of extremism, and extremism can't defeat extremism. Whether a viable third alternative exists is open to debate.

The crises now holding Afghanistan by the throat have manifested themselves in four ways: general insecurity, the proliferation of drug trafficking, the danger of humanitarian crisis, and effects of widespread corruption. All of these problems are interrelated: insecurity strengthens the drug trade, and the humanitarian crisis is made worse because of insecurity and corruption affecting both governmental and humanitarian organizations.

Insecurity: Despite the presence

of 20,000 American and 45,000 Afghan troops, 1,400 people were killed in Afghanistan in 2005 alone. Given that the country has been at war for 27 years and that Afghan soldiers are paid approximately USD \$75 per month, there is little motivation for individuals to remain in the army.

In September 2005, the BBC reported that hundreds of Afghan soldiers were deserting because of fierce resistance by the insurgency and generally poor military conditions.

Morale and motivation among Afghanistan's troops must increase — unless the current strategy is re-evaluated, we can expect to see a further lack of security, and more casualties, both civilian and military, for years to come.

The drug economy: Drug trafficking is the silent terrorism that strikes the streets of not only Kabul, but also New York, Toronto and London, too. According to the UN, Afghanistan produced 87 per cent of the world's opium in 2005, thus generating 52 per cent of the country's GDP and employing two million farmers. This black-market economy steals resources from the legal economy, but since humanitarian and governmental organizations have failed to restore economic activities even in somewhat secure areas, farmers wishing to survive have very little choice.

Nor are farmers the real beneficiaries of this trade: on average, an Afghan farmer earns USD \$150 per month. In 2004, experts envisioned that investment in the private sector would gradually discourage the drug economy. But, because of general insecurity in and around Kabul, private investment in Afghanistan remains extremely limited.

Corruption: In 2003, Dr. Bashardost, the former Afghan Minister of Planning, shocked humanitarian organizations when he asked the government to shut down 80 per cent of the 2,500 NGOs present in Afghanistan. Now a powerful MP, he still argues that, "government members, the NGOs, the big embassy staff, the United Nations staff, they made a mafia system and you can see the result."

Recently, Afghan finance minister Dr. Ghani seriously criticized humanitarian agencies for wastage, bureaucracy, and undermining government's ability to retain personnel. As quoted by the BBC, he also said that 90 per cent of UN aid sent to Afghanistan had been wasted in 2002 alone.

Humanitarian Crisis: UNICEF recently reported that a woman dies from pregnancy complications every 20 minutes in Afghanistan. It's also reported that 1 in 6 children will not reach their fifth birthday. Only 13 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water. Every month, landmines kill 150 people, mostly children, and malnutrition is widespread.

Humanitarian organizations have turned blind eyes and deaf ears to appeals by experts arguing for change. Every hour, children and women's lives are lost or changed forever, but they resist strategy changes that might improve living conditions.

These four pillars have virtually paralyzed state and institution building, and have made the process of restoring human rights a daunting task.

Extremism cannot defeat extremism — rational thinking is the only option that may improve conditions.

French students fight for employment rights

JIMMY KAPCHES
Staff Contributor

On the morning of March 14, all is quiet around the faculty of Droit-Lettres at the University of Burgundy in Dijon. The doors are barricaded with chairs, desks and tables, and there are no students or staff coming or going, except out of one fire door.

If you knock, a sentinel opens the door, asks who you are, and permits you to enter, so long as you are a student or a legitimately employed staffer.

Inside, the amphitheater is a mess. Posters cover the walls, the desks are covered with graffiti and students are smoking cigarettes under No Smoking signs.

"We've been blockading this building since last Monday," says one student. "Yesterday, there was a vote held by the administration. We can continue to blockade because we won 1027 for versus 823 against. Our 'blocage' is legitimate now, so we had a bit of a 'fête'."

It's the morning meeting of The Occupation Collective of the University of Bourgogne Against the CPE (Contrat Première Embauche), and these student revolutionaries are ready to get down to business.

One of the students, a young man with a ponytail, goes to the microphone on the cluttered command centre desk and says, "I'm happy to report to you that this morning, almost 40 universities are on strike in France!"

The assembled crowd cheers.

The basis of all this "revolution" is the Contrat Première Embauche — the First Job Legislation — which, set to take effect in April, makes it possible for employees under the age of 26 to be fired without justification, or even without notice. Many



French students fight for a better future.

consider this contract to be yet another measure of precariousness for young people in France, who are already victims of unemployment and poverty.

"The government wants this type of law to cover all salaried workers. Now they are targeting employees under 26," says a young woman who has been behind the barricades since the previous day. "One arbitrary mistake and you're fired. It's abusive dismissal, canned without a motive."

She describes the CPE as "la galère, le bordel, la précarité" — the ultimate hassle, mass disorder, instability.

Outside Droit-Lettres, great divisions are apparent among the students. When asked who they represent, the students promptly reply that they are a coalition of independent students from other unions and coalitions, but no particular one.

Despite the divisions between different student groups, there exists a certain modicum of solidarity.

On March 15, Le Figaro reported that the Minister of Education believes 46 of France's 84 universities are experiencing disturbances. Le Figaro adds that in the opinion of one of the largest French student unions, l'UNEE, there are 59 universities being disrupted.

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STREETER

What's your favourite class that you've taken at Dal?



“Intro to sociology, because the professor has a sense of humour.

Carl Dempsey, first-year arts



“Adult psychopathology, because it had a good prof and was interesting.

Jodie Gawryluk, PhD clinical psychology



“German, because our teacher is loud, sexy, and Russian...and kind.

Benji Rew, first-year arts
Alex Lofgreen, first-year commerce



“My favourite class is sociology 1000. It just is, I guess.

Patrick Adams, first-year arts



“Television theory and criticism. It showed me a lot of things about television.

Andrew Webster, fourth-year trash collecting and cigarette bumming



“War Since 1945, because it was extremely informative and attention-keeping.

Chris Dauphinee, third-year history



“Duncan Macintosh's metaphysics seminar, because he's a fantastic prof and it was very interesting material.

Ralph III, fifth-year philosophy



“From what I learned in STAT 3360 Probability, I should be making a fart joke right about now. How's this for a curve ball?

Joey Ryba, fifth-year leather chair lover

Got a question you want to see answered by students? streeter@dalgazette.ca

TOP 10

- 1 POSSIBILITY OF ASHLEY MACISSAC AS LIBERAL LEADER** Is he for reel? Or when will the jig be up?
- 2 PUKING AT 2:30 P.M. ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY** When you hit rock bottom the day can only get better from there.
- 3 THEN GOING OUT THE NIGHT AFTER ST. PATRICK'S DAY** Because you pretty much started the day at rock bottom.
- 4 HOW DOES TRUMP KNOW HIS NEW BABY IS HIS?** When it was born it fired the doctor.
- 5 V FOR VENDETTA** And W for Waaaaaaack!
- 6 THE MUCHMUSIC VJ SEARCH REALITY SHOW** Seems like a lot of hoopla over someone's who's going to be buried at the end of the bench.
- 7 NEW JAMES BOND FILM SANS GADGETS** So if he wants to escape from that burning plane he'll just have to rely on go-go-gadget charisma.
- 8 SHARON STONE IN BASIC INSTINCT 2** My first instinct was that she's older than my mom (I was right).
- 9 CANADIAN MEN AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME...** In figure skating?!
- 10 ANTICIPATION FOR THE GAZETTE SPOOF ISSUE** I can't wait to actually be funny.

HOT

NOT

Dal's upcoming fashion show on the 30th	It won't be hot enough for bikinis by the 30th
Jodie Foster	Sharon Stone
"I love figure skating and curling!"	Loving whatever Canadians are good at
Cutting that poor-man's debt	Shaving Nat Portman's head
The "gun and wink" pose	The "Fonz" pose
Vin Diesel's new flick	Jack Bauer's same old schtick
Q	M
Spring flings	Summer bummers, Fall brawls and Winter splinters
Peer pressure	Peer editing of an essay
Pink vs. Hollywood bimbos	50 Cent vs. bullets

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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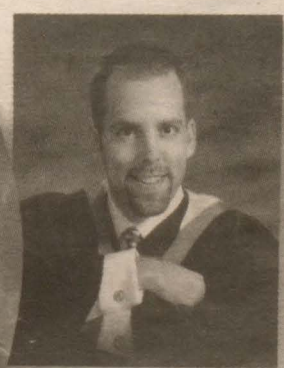
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Halifax Bar Scene

A reflection on the past three years

LI DONG
(AS CONSULTED BY HEATHER MILNE)
Staff Contributor

I am a typical fourth-year English student who has been frequenting most — if not all — of the bars in Halifax since April 2003, and I have been keeping a close eye on the most popular ones over the years.

Along with my drinking aficionado Heather Milne, I have analyzed bar trends by breaking down the week day-by-day:

Mondays

Mondays have been dominated by an epic battle between two drinks in the past three years: the margarita vs. the martini.

Getting into Mexicali Rosa's used to be annoying, because of the overwhelming crowd that showed up for cheap Margarita Mondays, until the Fireside countered with their own version.

The people have gradually moved toward this more formal drink choice.

Tuesdays

Ever since Planet Pool closed, Alexander's Pub down in the Alexander Keith's brewery has become the hotspot for Tuesday nights among the young and fast crowd.

If you're old and slow, well, there's something for you too — scotch night at the Gradhouse has come onto the scene this past year for those oldies who prefer to take the "fun" out of drinking and go straight to the Hemingway-like depression.



Planning a great night out requires a little strategy.

Wednesdays

The juggernaut known as The Dome rules Wednesday nights, because it's bigger, badder, and cheaper than any other place in town. The Dome has been busting up liquor sales records for the past few years, mainly because of its student night on Wednesdays.

Thursdays

Although many agree that this night should start at the Split Crow power-hour, the place to go after that hour of debauchery is up for debate.

Pitchman's Pub was once the place of choice because of its ridiculously cheap drinks and orca-pitchers of beer, but mismanagement has

slowly rendered Pitchman's a faded glory.

In its place is The Argyle Bar and Grill, which grabs a lot of different crowds with its diverse layout and unbeatable patio, and Stage Nine, largely because of the funkalicious Mellotones.

Fridays

Once upon a time, Pacifico was the reigning champion of the evening in terms of popularity. A possible reason for its decline might be the explosion of Peddler's onto the scene.

Saturdays

Honestly, who starts drinking at 4:30 p.m.? Apparently a lot of people

do, according to the sardine-packed crowd at the Split Crow. This power hour is consistently the craziest hour in Halifax drinking.

The Alehouse is the bar of choice for later in the evening, especially since it got rid of that pesky rumor that you had to be 21 to get in. The bar also owes its firm hold over the late-night crowd to its virtue of being neither the Dome nor The Palace.

Sundays

If you're drinking Sunday night, you should probably go to the Palace. Yes, this writer has ended up there more times than he would like to admit. There's also wing night at the Peel Pub if you don't feel like

HONORABLE MENTIONS

JJ Rossy's: Like the Trojan War, this place has probably been blown way out of proportion. Take the worst and best elements of every bar and you'll get JJ's. The stories I've heard about this place are so insane that they can't possibly be true.

Summer beer tents: Who doesn't like to drink outside? These tents give us a break from all the indoor drinking that we've been used to the past few months and are a welcome alternative, despite the shady patio tables.

Ward Room birthday: It might seem strange to salute something that happens once a year but, man, this event is its own King's institution. They drop the price of beer down to where it's probably damn near illegal, but the police just look the other way.

T-Room Thursdays: The crowd was amazing. The beer was cheap. And the atmosphere was comforting. Too bad you guys in the engineering campus had to drop your weekly power hours. We could have really had something there, man.

Rock Night at Tribeca: Only time will tell if this innovative, monthly event will be able to uphold its reputation as the place to be once a month. The concept is grand, but too much attention lately seems to have filled this rather eccentric bar with a banal crowd. Can keeping the night of rock music down to once a month prolong the masses' desire for much longer?

dancing.

But really, why wouldn't you feel like dancing?

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Letters to the Editor

letters@dalgazette.ca

Phil Duguay is no social conservative
Dear Editor,

I frequently read misconceptions of the DSU in *The Gazette*.

I am glad to see that at least some students seem interested in the DSU and that *The Gazette* feels there is news fit to print about our union. In "Slate Slumps at the Ballot Box" [*Gazette* 138-23], one sees a rather unbalanced story.

While some students may conceive us as a conservative organization, I totally disagree.

Not that anyone remembers, but I was perceived as a "leftist" candidate in my own election (although perhaps not as leftist as this year's "slate").

I won, and so did many other folks who I perceive as centre-left.

In my time here, I've seen an organization committed to following idealistic social-democratic notions in a pragmatic real-world manner.

We staged the Faces of Dalhousie Campaign in our commitment to create a harmonious, understanding campus.

We have begun to look at the union's environmental policies to create a "greener" atmosphere. We created an online forum called my.dsu.ca, where all students can post events and announcements so

that everyone has a chance to spread information.

We also created the Destination DSU process, which gives students access to voice out their opinions and steer our student government directly.

These are just a couple pieces of a much larger puzzle that dozens of committed full-time staff and councillors have contributed to, none of whom I would label as a neo-con.

My point is, I do not see how this "leftist slate," or any leftist movement on campus, can realistically be any more "left" than the DSU itself. We are an organization committed to thinking outside the box, and to serving all students equally.

Despite the fact that I'm half American, I have a short haircut and wear collared shirts, I am no social conservative.

I attend all the same peace rallies as the slate, I do yoga, I love granola, and I voted for Ralph Nader — twice.

Stop calling me, and the organization I help run, conservative.

Philip Duguay
DSU Vice-President (Internal)

Gazette questions for DSU executive candidates perpetuated heterosexism
Dear Editor,

I was appalled to read in issue 138-22 of *The Gazette* that one of the questions posed to the DSU executive candidates by Gazette staff was "(Name the) sexiest woman/man alive."

To clarify, the male candidates were asked about who they thought the sexiest woman was, while the female candidates were asked about who they thought the sexiest man was.

Aside from the extraneous nature of such a question in its relation to an electoral process, this also inadvertently presupposes that all candidates are heterosexual in orientation.

In a 21st century context, manifestations of heterosexism and homophobia on campus do not usually transpire through overt abuse, nor have they been conquered and destroyed; they lurk in the language we use and are perpetuated through our cursory interactions.

Someone reading the article may not have felt directly offended, but a continuous socialization that systemically reinforces the idea that heterosexuality is the "normative" behavior is morally destructive.

The question could have been alternatively stated as "name the sexiest person alive." Then again, I'm still not quite sure what the objectification of gender and glamorization of the good-looking glitterati has anything to do with tuition, student health, or campus community.

In an effort to "humanize" what could seem like an overly heady electoral process, the article resorted to the same old trick(s) employed by slick media magazines.

Politics can be sexy without using sex to sell politics.

Dave Ron
Executive Director of NSPIRG

Transition Year Program provides great opportunities
Dear Editor,

Making the decision to attend Dalhousie University has been one of my smartest decisions yet. I am currently enrolled in the Transition Year Program. This program is designed for African American and First Nations students who want to attend university, but do not meet the standard requirements. Students who complete the program are then eligible for a continuing tuition waiver at Dalhousie. Being in a program like this has

its advantages. One of those advantages would be the class size, which consists of only about 30 students. By having a smaller class size than other students, we have gotten to know each other very quickly. We know each other very well, and many life-long friendships have been formed. I actually hate missing a day of school, because I never know what I am going to miss. I have a special closeness with my new pals, which goes beyond any regular friendship, and I am sure it will be like that for many years to come.

I would like to commend all faculty and staff of the Transition Year Program for putting up with us when we are hyper, and helping us when we are stuck. They help the students make the decisions that will be best for themselves in the end. I am very comfortable with the professors and the staff. They make me feel as if I have a second family, so when I do continue on with my education I know I always have somewhere to turn if I need help.

I would like to finish by saying thank you friends, faculty, and staff of the Transition Year Program, for being there for me and helping me in every way you can.

Thank you,
Leotra Jarvis

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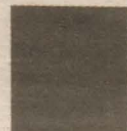
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Gazette
Elections!

Elections for next year's editorial positions
5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 30th Dal SUB Room 312.

Gazette
Elections!

Elections for next year's editorial positions
5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 30th Dal SUB Room 312.

What's worse than frosted-tipped, over-confident Ryan Seacrest? That would be the Canadian knockoff, Ben Mulroney.

One could feel nothing but shame watching this former-prime minister's son stalk the stars on the Oscar red carpet this year.

Talk about the disappointment of the family.

It really says a lot about this country when our national celebrities choose a life delivering the "dish" on American pop stars.

It says even more when they do a substandard job. Apparently, years of

American private schools, a history degree, a law degree, and brilliant parents will not prepare you for a job as a professional pop culture junkie.

Ben's too-eager red carpet questioning was, at the very least, embarrassing. In fact, the only people more star-struck than he was at this awards show were the

members of 36 Mafia.

You have to wonder if Will and Jada knew it was Canadian political royalty they awkwardly avoided during the pre-show. Perhaps they hold a grudge with his father about the GST charge they received on their lattes while on set in Toronto.

Either way, I can't imagine any celebrity choosing to talk to Star Jones over Chelsey Clinton — or anyone for that matter.

Oh, Canada. First we got GST and now, a red carpet ambassador. We can only dream about what the next generation of Mulroneys will do.

ARTS HOLE: BEN MULRONEY

Sarah Bridge / Staff Contributor

Family matters

akron/family makes even the conservatives tolerate a little weirdness

SARAH FELDMAN
Staff Contributor

It's easy to get the sense that akron/family may not want to be categorized.

It's not just because the band's Myspace site helpfully explains the music as sounding like "gack bun jam a tree," or because producer Michael Gira (of Young Gods Records) classifies the akron/family's self-titled debut as "gentle American country folk/unabashed electronic noise/extended skronk improvisation/an LSD version of a backwoods barbershop quartet."

It's not just because of songs like "Part of Corey," which begins with screeching electronics, shifts into wind-and-water soundscape, and ends with a stark blues figure that compresses all the brightness and loss of religious and erotic longing into 19 words and half a dozen notes.

Or because lead singer Ryan Vanderhoof, has such a supple voice that he can sound like Jeff Buckley, Will Oldham, Van Morrison, Win Butler, and Young Gods label-mate Devendra Banhart, though usually without getting dragged down into imitation.

The real problem with classifying akron/family's music is that it's just too damn coherent.

See, you can't call it "multi-genre" or "soundscape" or "psychedelia," because the usual connotations of those terms — fragmentary, free-associative, disembodied — don't really apply. akron/family may introduce atonal chanting, creaking chairs, lung-beating and shit-kicker hollering into its songs, but for some reason all those weird and jagged textures of sound seem to hang together (the underlying coherence of disparate stuff is, incidentally, also a lyrical theme on this album — see,



Land ho: akron/family set their sights on our great peninsula.

for instance, "Suchness").

Okay, maybe that sounds unnecessarily mystical.

The songs fit together because these four guys from "rural America" have somewhere acquired the kind of technique — I mean, in particular, the crystalline finger-pickings and angelic vocal stylings — that will make even fairly conservative listeners willing to tolerate a little weirdness.

No matter where the songs go, they loop back on themselves with pretty, melodic hooks and koan-like lyrical figures.

akron/family plays at Stage Nine on Saturday, March 25. *The Gazette* spoke with the band via e-mail last week during its ongoing tour of the United States and Europe.

Gazette: What are you working on right now, recording-wise?

akron/family: We just did a recording with the wonderful, otherworldly drummer Hamid Drake. Everyone should go out and investigate all recordings he has done, especially those with bassist William Parker. Also, this summer we are going to do a new Angels of Light record, which is going to be totally sweet, and a new akron disc in September/October.

Gazette: What does Michael Gira mean when he says you've started a new religion called "akak"? Do you get many aspiring converts?

akron/family: He means we have a re-

ligion, tax ID and everything. People are converting all the time without knowing it. Just by seeing our show, people become honorary (even if unknown) members of our cult, and subconsciously start sending money straight to our akak bank account ("ak" is simply "bank" with the "bn" removed).

Gazette: Don't you share your name with some kind of mental health/relationship counselling clinic? Can you illuminate this connection for me?

akron/family: All of our parents met originally and then swapped partners at this mental health facility. In truth, none of us know who our real parents are, but it is comforting

to know they have probably all slept with each other.

Gazette: Please account for Ryan's voice.

akron/family: 400 years of practicing with a large sleuth of bears in a cave. It is a method called "bear sleep singing," which is what bears actually do when they hibernate. It sounds like whales with fur. Ryan's bear sleep singing would maul and de-face Jeff and Will, though fortunately he is usually peaceful.

Gazette: Can you talk a little about the decision to incorporate the more untraditional elements into your songs?

akron/family: When we add sounds, either traditional or non, we are always trying to find the "right" sound for the song — the specific sounds that really bring out the song and give it setting and character.

Sometimes the noise is meant to startle, but other time it's just a colour along with all the other sounds.

Gazette: This album has the kind of introspective clarity sometimes associated with solo singer-songwriter projects. How is that kind of intensity created in a collaborative environment?

akron/family: This is a secret that only fourth-level adepts in our religio-sonic cult can know (and unfortunately all these people are killed with big logs during the initiation process).

Gazette: Have you met the Thing-Itself? Did it explain Heidegger?

akron/family: YES. I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW.

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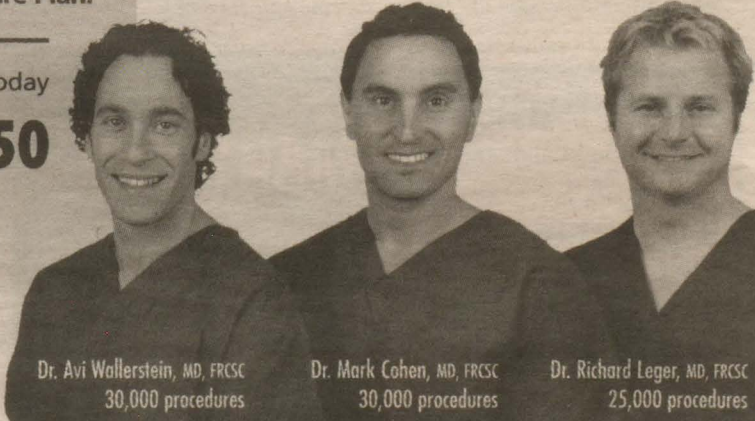
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Magneta Lane: not just pretty faces. / Photo: Rannie Turnigan

Life in the fast lane

Indie girl pop band Magneta Lane rock vagabond lifestyle

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN
Assistant Arts Editor

The three women of indie pop band Magneta Lane are on the road again, and it seems as though there's not a moment to spare on solid ground. But it takes only one brief glance at the band's touring schedule to understand the need for multitasking.

"I'm so sorry," says Lexi Valentine, front woman and spokesperson Magneta Lane, as our interview begins. "Because we're in the van, you can hear it in the background."

Valentine on guitars, French on bass, and Nadia King on drums are Magneta Lane and all three swear those are, in fact, their real names. Wrangling the women's exact ages out of Valentine proves a little more difficult.

"Well that depends," says Valentine, referring to the band members' ages. "In some situations we're 21, sometimes we're 20 and other times we're 19. Well, actually we're 35 year old women, but we lied to our record label."

On the road again

The three-piece band has recently commenced its Canada-wide tour, just off a weekend trip to Austin for the South By South West Festival.

After making stops in Charlottetown, P.E.I., Halifax, N.S., and Fredericton, N.B., the band will head across Canada, making several stops along the way.

Although the possibilities of fame and fortune are likely incentives, it's hard to understand what would keep anyone on the road for months on end. Valentine, for one, doesn't paint a pretty picture of the constant travelling the band often endures.

"It's hard being at a different hotel every single night, and waking up, not really realizing where the hell you are," she says. "And having to wake up at 6 in the morning for a twelve hour drive, and then play your ass off that night and do interviews and all that stuff."

"Everything is hard work."

Daggers out

As Valentine discusses life in a

band, it becomes clear that the work that goes into the maintenance of Magneta Lane is far less glamorous than the band of three young, attractive women tend to appear in their music videos and in the press.

"Being in a band is just such a whirlwind emotionally and physically," she says. "The people that you meet, everything, just becomes bunched into one."

Valentine, the band's lyricist and vocalist, attributes the lyrical edginess of the women's recently released album, *Dancing With Daggers*, to these experiences.

"The EP [*The Constant Lover*] was a more fun and cheeky album," she says. "With this one, two years after starting a band, of course our lyrics are going to change because we're at a completely different point in our lives."

Not just another pretty face

The Toronto, Ont., based band, currently happily at home on the Paper Bag Records label, credits a strong sense of entitlement for its formation. The three women were tired of being just faces in the crowd at shows and tired of being paid the usual "thanks for coming out" lip service by musicians they respected.

Valentine, French and King wanted to be taken seriously.

"When you're in a crowd you feel like you're always looking up to the musician," says Valentine. "I guess we kind of just got fed up with that. We wanted to be the musicians."

The first time the trio ever picked up their instruments was soon after this revelation. And although it's clear that Magneta Lane has come a long ways from this beginning, the band's musical aspirations remain rather humble.

"We just wanted to write songs that sounded good to the ear at that point," says Valentine. "We knew we weren't good musicians, and even now we're not the most magical musicians out there or anything. We just make sure we write a song that sticks in your head."

Magneta Lane is playing Thursday, March 23 at the Pavillon (7 p.m.) and the Attic (11 p.m.).

Double take

The Gazette leaves the sanctuary and enters the gallery

LAURA STONE
CHRISTINA STEFANSKI
Staff Contributors

Jordana Lenk's photographic exhibit, *Out of the Sanctuary*, is about churches — but doesn't actually display any churches.

Lenk, who chooses to portray the role of the church outside of the religious sanctuary environment, describes her work as "a redefinition of the church as a changing community." Inevitably, this means that her photographs involve old people — lots and lots of old people.

Out of the Sanctuary is a rotating exhibit, and will showcase three different pictures from March 14 to 25 at the Anna Leonowens Gallery.

Upon *The Gazette's* visit, the "re-configured panoramic photographs" presented three events in the Christian community: a clergy meeting, a tea sale, and an outdoor baptism. By photographing these traditional church events and altering certain areas through the layering of squares, Lenk creates an impression of progressing time and shifting tradition within a single image.

It also makes the old ladies drinking tea look really cool.

This technique of reconfiguration works most successfully in the

"Outdoor Baptism" photograph. Taken at a Navigators Christian Society retreat in P.E.I., the photograph chronicles one man's ocean baptism while a crowd of onlookers observes from the shore.

Through Lenk's reconfiguration, the man's every step into the ocean is highlighted and intensified, as if separate from the rest of the photograph. He also receives his towel to dry off before he enters the ocean — a subtle but surprisingly powerful detail.

Although only three photographs are on display, Lenk's exhibit should not be quickly passed over. With their double images and alterations of time, the photographs are more intricate than they first appear.

Who knew churches could be so trippy?
- LS

By rearranging panoramic photos, Lenk is exploring changes in Halifax churches beyond their historical structures and redefining the Christian community. Her work represents activities that are taking place beyond the religious sanctuary environment.

Lenk uses fragmentation in her photos to depict the departure from traditional sanctuary services and

the rising value of community in the Christian church.

"Outdoor Baptism" is a composition that represents the Navigators Christian Society's retreat to P.E.I. Lenk depicts the step-by-step process of an individual walking into the ocean in several frames — this fragmentation evokes a sense of movement through phases.

Lenk also visually represents a group of bystanders on the beach, who are witnessing the community member as he goes through his baptism process.

As such, her work demonstrates that people gather together and worship through all events, not just Sunday Service.

"Tea Sale" illustrates a scene that was captured at Church Hall in St. Andrew's United Church. This composition shows a ballroom with large windows casting light onto people of all ages engaged in conversation. The frames in this piece represent an assortment of facial expressions, pointing to the human interaction that takes place within the Christian community.

Lenk's photography portrays that there is religious belief and unity of its community members beyond the institution of the church.

- CS

Polaroids aren't just for tourists anymore

Current Gallery Deluxe Gallery exhibit shuns artistic inaccessibility

LAURA TRETHERWEY
Staff Contributor

The title of Julien Pacaud's latest exhibit, 66 Polaroids That Never Existed, is just so refreshingly explicit. It's almost as if the French illustrator extended a helpful hand to you while whispering seductively; "Ici, n'en croyez pas vos yeux!"

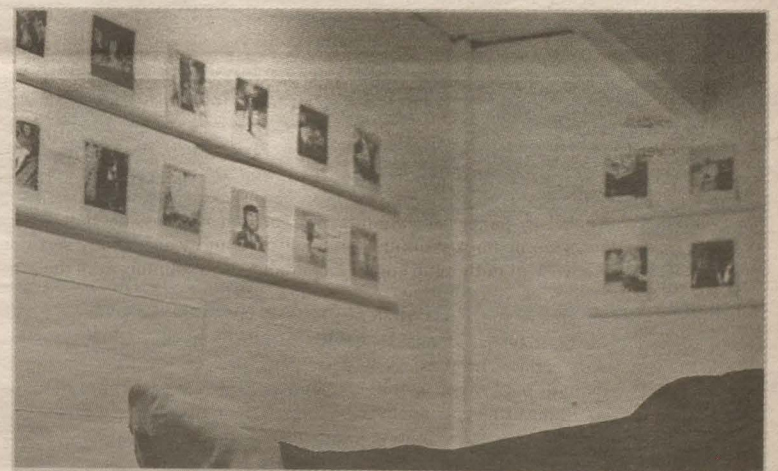
In this sense, the exhibit avoids being artistically inaccessible for the viewer — despite the fact that the Polaroids now inhabit the notoriously treacherous crawlspace, Gallery Deluxe Gallery, which is located in the attic of 6015 Willow St.

The majority of the Polaroids hold enough power to absorb the viewer, even to the point of forgetting to analyze the artwork. Within the photos, Pacaud creates an influx of alternate worlds — some absurd, others surreal, and many plain fantasy.

Within the square frame of the Polaroid photo, he tampers with our experience of pop culture and photography: one shot shows two aging tourists smiling broadly in front of a flaming car wreck.

The foreground is boring enough, causing us to accept the background as ordinary, and then Pacaud has tricked us into believing the image is real.

The Gallery Deluxe Gallery, however, perhaps overstates the power behind the Polaroid, claim-



Julien Pacaud's Polaroids fuse the surreal and the beautifully dark. / Photo: Laura Threthewey

ing that "by using a Polaroid frame, Pacaud confuses our pop-culture sensibilities into thinking that the world could exist, somehow, since Polaroids are known for capturing a realistic, instantaneous moment in time."

The Polaroid frames don't single-handedly accomplish the feat of confusing our perception of reality. Instead, this credit goes to Pacaud's artistic ability to strategically estrange the familiar within a photo.

For instance, one photo shows two female nudes, their heads cut off by the frame, leaning over a busy metropolis scene. Here, the viewer encounters a familiar urban landscape, which is then overpowered by the gigantic female form. This alter-

nate world seems not only real, but also beautiful, because the lighting in the frame is soft while the women's bodies appear playful.

At times, Pacaud's Polaroids veer into the ludicrous with cut-and-paste, half-hazardous or painfully amateur images, which struggle to convey a point simply by being dark.

Yet the majority of the pictures demonstrate the frightening brilliance in Pacaud's moments of artistic clairvoyance.

Visit the Gallery Deluxe Gallery online at www.gallerydeluxegallery.com for information on Julien Pacaud's 66 Polaroids That Never Existed, as well as past and future exhibits.

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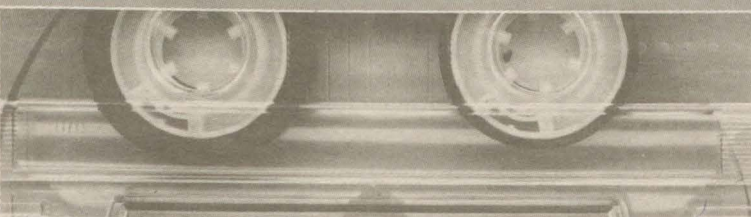
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Burn Baby Burn



Anti-War Songs

SIDE A : Laura Stone / Staff Contributor

Ah, Mr. Harper, you silly little (big) man. We rarely see you for your first two months in office, and where do you make your first big appearance? Why, Afghanistan of course, to "rally the troops" and drive helicopters for the press.

Well, we music-lovers have something to say about that: there's no such thing as platonic peacekeeping, and we're gonna' burn a CD to show you who is boss.

(Don't worry everybody, there's no Bono on my list. That guy's just annoying.)

- "Masters Of War (Live on Letterman)" - Pearl Jam
- "In My Time Of Dying" - Be Good Tanyas
- "Life During Wartime" - Talking Heads
- "When The Roses Bloom Again" - Wilco And Billy Bragg
- "He War" - Cat Power
- "I Saw Her At The Anti-War Demonstration" - Jens Lekman
- "World War 4" - Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra
- "Price Of Gas" - Bloc Party
- "Bombers" - David Bowie
- "When The President Talks To God" - Bright Eyes

SIDE B: Angelica Blenich / Staff Contributor

In light of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent visit to Afghanistan, Canadians seem to be following the example led by the Americans with their avid love and need for war.

Remembering that this is Canada after all, a country that prides itself on promoting and demonstrating peace, here is a compilation of the ten best "make love not war" songs.

Made up of all different styles of music, this list has something for everyone. Now that's what I call a solution.

- "Wake Me Up When September Ends" - Green Day
- "Imagine" - John Lennon
- "Bullet In Your Head" Rage against the machine
- "Good People" - Jack Johnson
- "What's Going On" Marvin Gaye
- "Travelin' Soldier" - Dixie Chicks
- "With God On Our Side" - Bob Dylan
- "Where Is The Love" - Black Eyed Peas
- "Everybody Wake Up (our finest hour arrives)" - Dave Matthews Band

This Week's Picks

Entertainment Pick by Shawna Lipton / Arts Contributor

V for Vendetta

For comic book fans everywhere, it's all downhill after *Sin City*. Robert Rodriguez's panel-by-panel recreation of Frank Miller's comic book vision left nerds everywhere with nothing to complain about.

V for Vendetta is the latest Hollywood blockbuster to be based on a classic comic book series. The Wachowski brother's adaptation of Alan Moore's brilliant graphic novel leaves much to be desired, but still remains true to the original revolutionary spirit of the text.

A mysterious masked man known only as V — *The Matrix's* Hugo Weaving — creates an elaborate plan to expose the corruption of the totalitarian government that controls his futuristic London home. Equipped with extraordinary strength, speed and intellect, and a keen theatrical flare, V is willing to use any means necessary to tackle the fascist regime that has imposed itself on every facet of society.

Along the way, he gains the help of a young woman named Evey, who is portrayed fairly underwhelmingly by Natalie Portman. Evey had been numbed by

the tyranny that surrounds her but is awakened by V's revolutionary spirit.

The film plays up the violent action sequences necessitated by V's quest for justice and leaves many secondary characters and subplots from the graphic novel behind. *V for Vendetta* may not be the adaptation of a fan girls'/boys' dreams, but it does contain enough action-packed excitement to keep you interested in the somewhat more subversive elements of the story. There is a refreshing queer positive message in the film, for example, which is uncommon amongst big-screen thrillers targeted toward adolescent boys.

The fact that Portman's shaved head created more media controversy than the entire plot of the film proves that the story does not function successfully as a political call to arms.

But as an intense and amusing night out at the theatre, this movie is a crowd-pleaser in the same vein as the first *Matrix* movie. And those who do enjoy the film should head down to their local comic shop to get the full picture of *V for Vendetta* in its original, graphic novel form.

Local Crop by Saman Jafarian / Arts Contributor



Make a Little Noise (DVD)
The Joel Plaskett Emergency

Make a Little Noise is The Joel Plaskett Emergency's recent DVD release, comprised of 14 live tracks — eight performed at The Marquee Club— and 10

music videos. A bonus three-song CD is also included in the pack.

The DVD is not a slick production like you might get from world-famous bands. Instead, many shots are relatively fuzzy, given the low-lit stage. The camera work, however, is not without skill, and format helps create a participatory feeling the band cultivates at its concerts.

Whether a DVD is the best move for the band is debatable. The band's enthusiasm carries through the screen, and the sound is excellent. But the inclusion of almost an equal number of music videos as live tracks highlights that some of the studio versions are comparatively lacking to their live counterparts.

More time devoted to live performances, or the release of a live CD, would have been preferable.

That said, it's nice to have the opportunity to see the music videos, and the inclusion of the stripped-down, acoustic version of "True Patriot Love" is worth purchasing the whole DVD, while "Down at the Khyber" invokes fond memories of the much-loved, now defunct venue.



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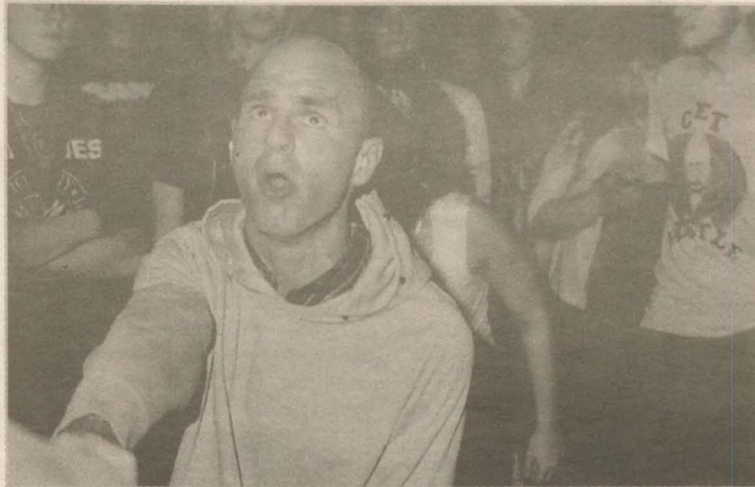
SARAH FELDMAN
Staff Contributor

The first thing I notice about Darcy Spidle, owner of local hardcore/experimental label Divorce Records, is that he looks an awful lot bigger onstage. Whether drumming in Attack Mode or singing lead in The Hold, his onstage presence tends to evoke comparisons to the deranged half-brother from any number of low-budget monster movies.

But in person, Spidle turns out to be self-deprecating, articulate and unfailingly polite, if a little awkward — he blinks constantly and apologizes for being “not very good at interviews.”

He warms up, though, as we start talking about the new Divorce release, a compilation featuring music from regional experimental artists including Andrew Duke, Holy Fuck and Cut Off Tail.

“I think Nova Scotia is often represented as indie rock, but a lot more goes on here,” says Spidle. “I



Darcy Spidle performing with The Hold at the Truro Boys and Girls Club. / Photo: David Cieplinski

wanted to represent this region a bit, kind of say, ‘This is something that’s happening on a wider scale.’

“[Noise] is a genre that’s getting more popular, but people have been doing it here for awhile. There’s people on that comp who have been making this kind of music since the 80s.”

The compilation, entitled *Die Like an Animal Dies*, includes 12 tracks, culled from an initial 50 submissions Spidle received from musicians across Nova Scotia. The release will be held at the One World Café this Saturday, March 25, with performances by contributors Dogs of Art, Torso, Shit Cook, S-Slayer

and Thee Meugicians.

It’s a first for Divorce, which started in 1999 as the logo for a cassette released by Spidle’s punk band, The Dead Roads.

Spidle says starting the label was a way to take control of the music in the face of an increased “industry” focus among bands.

“I’d been in a group at the time, The Holiday Snaps, that was maybe going down that road,” he says. “We kind of self-destructed because we didn’t really like the direction we were going in.”

“With Divorce, it’s all about recordings we do ourselves, master ourselves, produce ourselves.”

According to Spidle, one of the goals of Divorce was to do things cheaply.

“That was the problem with the old band we were in: it was getting really expensive,” he says. “We had this \$10,000 recording that we owed five guys for who would come around after us in trucks. So we were like, ‘Let’s make this album for \$50.’ And then we sold them all and made

like \$200. I think that’s the way to do it.”

For several years, Spidle applied the philosophy primarily to his own recordings, releasing Attack Mode, The Hold, and Shit Cook under the Divorce imprint.

But in 2005, he started adding other groups to the roster, including Be Bad and Gilbert Switzer.

Spidle says he had played a number of shows with the bands and was excited about their modes of engaging the audience.

“Divorce bands have always been about pretty aggressive, exciting live shows, and I think Switzer and Be Bad are at the top of the game for Halifax for that,” he says.

“Switzer’s last show at Stage Nine, Troy was rolling around in glass on the stage, almost naked... I think that punk rock has to have some element of performance art. It puts the audience on edge.”

Visit www.divorcerecords.ca for more information on Divorce artists and news.

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Who Reigned Supreme?

DR. LUKE A. "PI MASTER"
DeCOSTE I, ESQ.

Let me describe a scene for you. I, a fourth year civil engineering student, live with Jenna, a Dal theatre grad, and Bengie, a NSCAD student. Some might think that with such different lifestyles, this arrangement would be inharmonious if nothing else. Different lifestyles, yes, but inharmonious could not be farther from reality.

When I recently took Jenna on a tour of Daltech, she was like a child in a space museum.

"What is that? Why are there no tiles in the ceiling? You actually break stuff here? I thought it was just numbers!"

"Okay," she said, "so you make the paint and canvas, and architects make the painting."

"Yes," I replied, "but without an engineer there would be no painting." She agreed and laughed, "but who would want to look at it?"

Well I guess that's not far off. Sure, we could design the car and make it work, but who'd want to cruise the strip in such a blah auto? Since moving in with Bengie and Jenna, I've learned about the work involved in charcoal painting, about

Freudian theory, and that my roommates are both walking thesauruses (you didn't think I learned "plethora" here at Daltech did you?)

Her eyes still wide, Jenna was both gracious and amazed. I latched on to her enthusiasm and said, "don't thank me, thank engineers in general - we make life easier." Her amazement was set in stone when I told her of the First Annual Sexton Engineering Olympics which had taken place on Saturday.

What are the first-ever Engineering Olympics, you ask? I'll give you the benefit of the doubt - you must have been scaling Purdy's wharf to save a pigeon with a broken wing, hence your absence at the event. If didn't have such a valid excuse, I'd feel little need to enlighten you on the success of the event attended by 170 of your fellow students.

Engineers have a tendency to discredit other faculties. They also have a tendency to discredit, berate and outright detest other disciplines. Sparing you the stereotypes, I will say this: each faculty has its purpose, as does each discipline. Saturday night was an opportunity to exploit this interdisciplinary rivalry for a little fun and gain some appreciation of the other disciplines.

Environmental and biological embraced the aforementioned stereotypes, spending all day Saturday tie-dyeing shirts.

They showed up in unison with bright blue, green, and pink shirts, overwhelming the crowd with chants of "Trees! Trees! Trees!" They initiated several DPs (dance parties) and who knows what the night would have been like without Captain Planet (I agree, he is a hero. Now let's work on getting pollution down to zero).

Industrials blew us away when a student representing them recited Pi to 160 decimal places. Not to mention having a third of their discipline in attendance removed from the premises for boat races.

Rumour has it the industrial who recited Pi was actually an undercover Mechanical student, and 75% of the T-room staff that night were Mechanicals. I don't think this would have happened without them, regardless of what discipline created the human database.

Mining students destroyed my stereotype of them - I thought there were only ten people in their discipline. They took first place for attendance with 69 per cent of their class present - 22 students and a 76 year

old professor.

Materials "grew the pie" with the joke "materials make things work, and electricals suck."

Proving this to be a false statement, the electricals showed up brightly-clad in yellow and let us know that they may be cutthroat in class but still know how to have a good time.

A gentleman named Gareth represented 50 per cent of chemical attendance and did this well by participating in every event, including reciting pi to an awe-inspiring 2 decimal places.

Arguably saving the best for last, Civil had the most students in attendance. The best kept secret of the event was that our society was responsible for organizing it.

Huge props should go to our team, who killed every tree from here to the tundra to make posters with question marks. And in defence of not wining - come on, wouldn't it have been a little corrupt if we had? One could even go so far as to say that we didn't want to win (sure Luke, keep telling yourself that one).

Points were awarded to the different disciplines based on : attendance (professors and students),

shirt colours, Pi and Greek alphabet reciting, balloon busting, wiener in a bottle (don't ask, just come next year to see), pi(e) eating, and most tips (22 people in mining put in \$90, and reportedly, an industrial tipped \$14 on one drink).

After announcing "THE SUPREME DISCIPLINE OF 2006 IS ... MINING", the Mining students jumped to the stage grabbed the trophy and wouldn't give it back.

Plans were in place to have it engraved and displayed in the alumni lounge or T-room, but their pride has made me sceptical about whether we'll ever see it again. Seriously guys, we'll need it back

I'd like to give out a huge thanks to all those who attended or even thought about attending (hey, someone has to save pigeons).

For those not graduating this year, it's up to you to carry on the legacy.

If for no other reason than so that 20 years in the future, when you are discussing options for building the ninth wonder of the world, you will be able to look at the Daltech grad to your left and say, "what would you know, the year I graduated, my discipline reigned supreme my friend, not yours."



Facts about Sodexho at the Student Union Building



DINING SERVICES

We employ approximately 40 people during the school year at the Student Union Building. Some of our staff members have been with us for more than 10 years. Almost half of our staff members are Dalhousie students.

We operate Tim Horton's, Pizza Pizza, Wired (Starbuck's), Selona Grill, Peel (made to order sandwiches and smoothies) and a convenience store all within the Student Union Building.

We cooperate with several Dalhousie Student Societies and associations during the school year with fundraisers, sponsorships and donations for their events.

In September 2006, we enrolled two business students in Sodexho's Student Manager Program. They have gained valuable experience and training in the food service industry, while earning a weekly paycheque. The intention is to move into full time management positions after graduation.

We provide catering for all sizes of functions, from 5 people to 1000 people. We cater to functions on and off campus, and supply all food services, linen, china and personnel when required. Our catering menu is available for viewing on the web at www.dsu.ca under food services. Our catering menu offerings have been as diverse as hotdogs/hamburgers, soups and sandwiches to prime rib and lobster, with served or buffet option.

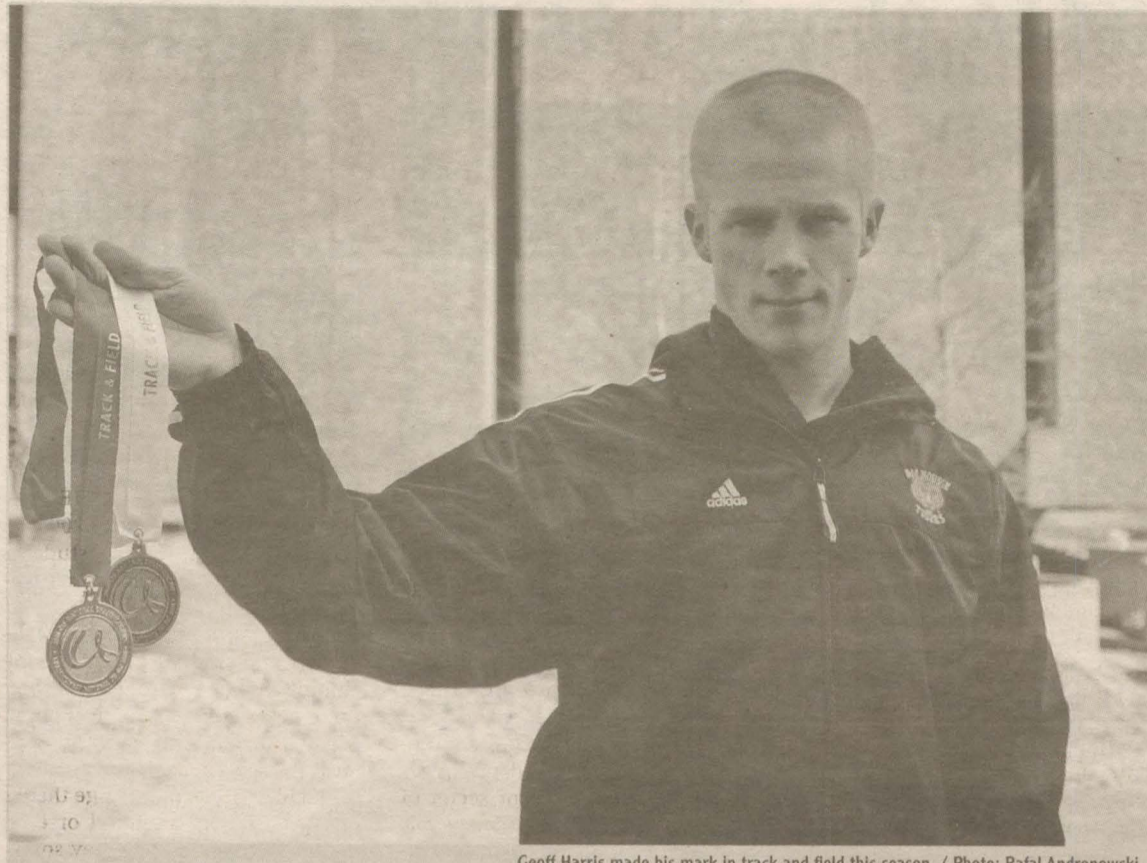
Sodexho has run several contests this year:

- The Any Two Will Do promotion awarded a SmartCar to a Sodexho customer earlier this year
- Destination Sodexho's Canadian Grand Prize has yet to be drawn; it is an \$8,000 trip to Australia
- Win an I-Pod from Pizza Pizza - two winners from Dalhousie
- Win a dinner for 2 at the SUB on Valentine's day - 6 winners from Dalhousie (over 1300 entries)
- Win a dinner for 2 on St. Patrick's day - 4 students and 2 staff from Dalhousie won (over 1600 entries)
- Pepsi sponsored various contests with local prizes



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Geoff Harris made his mark in track and field this season. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Rookie sprinter makes impact at CIs

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

Geoff Harris, a first-year sprinter with the Dalhousie Tigers men's track and field team, wasted little time in making his mark this season.

The Halifax, N.S., native won the gold medal in the 600-m and a bronze medal as part of the 4x800-m relay team at CIs, which were held at the University of Saskatchewan earlier in March. Harris also received the CIS rookie of the year award.

Harris says he got involved with track and field through his older sister, who coached at his junior high school. The young standout says he initially ran for fun, but took it more seriously as he progressed in the sport.

"Once I was in it I realized I loved it and that's where I wanted to be, so I stayed from there," says Harris.

Harris continued to excel at the junior high level and later in high school competition.

He was a star sprinter for Queen Elizabeth High School and ran the 100-m, 200-m and the 400-m. In grade 11, he silvered in all these events in the high school final.

At this time, Dal track and field

coach Dan Hennigar attended a high school meet to scout potential recruits. Hennigar watched Harris and talked to him after the race.

"Dan came up and talked to me about my future in track and asked where I wanted to go with it," says Harris. "He told me he liked to be a part of it and wanted me to come to Dal."

Harris, an arts student, continued to dominate high school track. In grade 12, he won the gold medal in the 100-m, 200-m and 400-m and then came to Dal this past September.

Hennigar says Harris has a phenomenal amount of physical talent. "He's got a lot of speed and he seems to have a capacity for endurance, so he's got it all in that sense," says Hennigar. "He trains really hard and he's very focused on what he eats."

"He doesn't seem to be intimidated, so he's got the discipline, physical talent and that mental competitive tenacity."

Harris says Hennigar is a great coach and Dal's track and field program is strong.

"[There's] really good commitment among the athletes and the coaches and that makes for a good environment for training," says Harris. "There's a lot of good ath-

letes so you're always being pushed and helping push other people. It's been great."

At the nationals, Harris delivered a solid performance in the 600-m and became the first-ever Dal rookie to win a CIS gold medal in track and field. Harris says his experience at CIs was more than what he expected. He says he knew he had to medal and made sure his final race was a good one.

"When I went into the race, my race plan had been set," he says. "I knew exactly what I had to do, and I knew if I could do it, I'd win."

Harris says after winning the race, he felt both relieved and happy.

This summer, Harris says he plans to train with Hennigar and compete in junior nationals.

Looking toward the future for Harris, Hennigar says he doesn't want to make any big predictions.

"A person who has the kind of speed Geoff has and has a capacity to run in slightly longer events, which is a rare combination, is somebody who can advance certainly to an international level in those middle-distance events," says Hennigar. "We're in no hurry to take him there, but when he makes that move, he's going to turn a lot of heads."

DALIFAMOUS: Who's who on Campus?

Until the end of the term, The Gazette will be profiling members of the Dalhousie community who are helping shape the identity of the university on and off campus. For more profiles in this week's edition of the Dalifamous roster, see page 5.

Women's hockey coach leads Tigers to CIs

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Staff Contributor

Anyone who knows Dalhousie Tigers women's hockey coach Lesley Jordan would argue that she was destined to live a life that included hockey.

The Concordia alumna graduated in 1996 with an undergraduate degree in athletic therapy and has coached the Tigers since 2002. Prior to Dal, Jordan coached women's hockey at Acadia University.

Coaching wasn't always Jordan's aspiration; however, the experienced and well-traveled coach says she wouldn't change professions for anything and expects to be coaching varsity women's hockey for years to come.

"Coaching varsity hockey will for sure be a mainstay," says Jordan.

As for the distant future, Jordan says she has her eyes set on a coaching position with the women's national team.

Jordan has an impressive list of coaching experiences, one of which has allowed her to travel to Germany this past summer with Canada's under-22 team where the squad captured the gold medal. She is also going to coach the 2007 Nova Scotia Canada Games team.

She says coaching varied levels of players at different tournaments is exciting, but she could never choose a favorite.

"There's nothing specific to hockey as to why I enjoy coaching," says Jordan. "It's more the life lessons and experiences you benefit from. We all learn a lot from each other."

Jordan is relatively new to the varsity coaching scene, and says her most memorable moment as a coach came this year when the Tigers beat the SMU Huskies at AUs in the semi-finals — making it the biggest win in Dalhousie women's hockey history.

Besides making history and leading a promising team to its first stellar season in many years, Jordan



Jordan led her team to its best-ever season in AUS women's hockey. / Photo: Nick Pearce

says the biggest reward to coaching hockey is the learning experience.

"The constant knowledge we strive for and what you learn when you thought you had learned everything is the exciting part," she says. "My life will always revolve around sports and hockey for that reason."

Jordan's passion for hockey and coaching is evident in everything she does, and lack of commitment and drive is the one thing that frustrates her.

"The broad spectrum of athletes you have and the goal to have a full roster at the same level can be difficult," she says. "I'm so passionate about the sport and I expect others to have it, too."

"It can be frustrating when there's only 50 per cent commitment from a player; however, we were fortunate enough this season not to have any of those obstacles. It was great."

After leading the team to its most successful season in years and only losing one player, Jordan and the Tigers will certainly be back next season with something to prove.

Jordan's great coaching and her dedicated players have come together this season and will use 2006/2007 to outshine the glum history of Dalhousie women's hockey.

Pick up the next issue of The Gazette to find out who else is making the Dalifamous roster.

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Screaming Eagles head to playoffs as dark horses

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The Cape Breton Screaming Eagles will square-off with the St. John's Fog Devils in the first round of the QMJHL Major Junior Hockey League playoffs. The action gets underway Friday, March 23 at Centre 200 in Sydney, N.S.

The Eagles finished regular season play with 87 points — good enough for third place in the QMJHL's east division. St. John's, an expansion team, concluded the regular season in sixth place in the east division with 66 points.

The Cape Breton squad started the season on a dismal note when the team lost its first five games. The Eagles managed to turn things around quickly and have emerged as an outside contender for the league championship.

Much of the turnaround can be attributed to Eagles goaltender Ondrej Pavelec. The Atlanta Thrashers prospect has the league's best goals-against average and save percentage. The star net-minder has received QMJHL's defensive player



James Sheppard will be the Eagles go-to guy in the playoffs. / Photo: www.capebreton eagles.com

of the week honours on several occasions, and has single-handedly won games for his team like a recent 3-1 win over the Moncton Wildcats where the Cats out-shot the Eagles 45-29.

In addition to strong goaltending, the team is led by sophomore forward sensation James Sheppard. The center/winger has had a stellar season. He's second in team-scoring with 84 points in 66 games. Sheppard is ranked as a potential first-

round selection for this year's NHL entry draft by Central Scouting. The power-forward is a gifted playmaker and is outstanding at protecting the puck from opponents. The Eagles will depend on the youngster to lead the offensive attack.

Besides Sheppard, Kevin Asselin, Chris Culligan and Cam Fergus will also be expected to produce in the post-season.

Asselin leads the team with 88 points. The fifth-year forward thrives

in pressure situations and can be a thorn in the side of the opposition. Asselin and Sheppard have great chemistry and together with Dean Ouelette form a lethal scoring line.

Culligan is best known for his on-ice vision and playmaking ability. The second-year left-winger is sound defensively and also has an offensive touch. The Eagles will look to Culligan for some offensive production and to kill penalties.

Fergus, who came to the Eagles

in the mid-season trading period, has been an impact player since his arrival. The former Gatineau Olympique along with Culligan and also newly-acquired Alex Blais form the Eagles second line. Like Sheppard and Asselin, Fergus and Culligan have good chemistry and give the Eagles a legitimate second scoring line.

On blue-line, Charles Fontaine, J.C. Sawyer and Jason Swit lead the defensive core.

Fontaine is a steady stay-at-home defenceman and is best known for punishing opponents with bone-crunching hits.

Sawyer, who has had a breakout season offensively with 51 points, will be looked upon to generate offense from the backend, especially on the power-play.

Rookie Swit is a nice mix of offensive and defensive talent and will help his team in all game situations.

With the post-season about to start, it's now a matter of the guys playing up to their full potential. If that is the case, the Eagles could be poised for a successful playoff run.



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